

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) because the Applicant allegedly did not invent the claimed subject matter. In response to this rejection, claim 21 has been canceled. Applicants submit that with the cancellation of claim 21, the inventorship of the remaining claims is correct. Specifically, the Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,524,030 include some elements that are not found in the present claims. Specifically, the issued patent includes claims for joining links of pipes together and means for such joining. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the inventorship of the present application is now correct.

Double Patenting:

In response to the double patenting rejection, a Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith, whereby the claims of the pending application are terminally disclaimed with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,524,030.

Information Disclosure Statement:

In an April 16, 2003 telephone conversation with the Examiner, the Examiner has indicated that all foreign references have been received. However, in the PTO Form 1449 statements returned by the Examiner, some of the foreign references and non-patent

literature items were not initialed by the Examiner. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return initialed copies of all 1449 forms. For the convenience of the Examiner, clean copies are submitted herewith.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

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